

EMPIRE ZONE BUSINESS CERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Businesses that are in real property, city, county and school tax arrears will not be considered for certification until all back taxes are paid.
2. Priority consideration will be given to new or existing businesses or industries that locate or relocate into a targeted area, or that have been identified as a target business.
3. De-certification will be recommended for businesses that were only certified to receive utility rate reductions, and that are no longer eligible for such reductions.
4. Retail uses that seek zone benefits must hire at least two fulltime or fulltime equivalent employees within two years of the certification date; and must demonstrate a projected sales volume of at least \$100,000 within two years of the certification date.
5. Existing businesses seeking certification must demonstrate that they will be hiring at least two fulltime or fulltime equivalent employees within two years of the certification date or that they will be making a minimum investment of \$10,000 in production property or equipment or \$50,000 in physical improvements.
6. Corporations that are formed as *Limited Liability Corporations* must demonstrate that the cost of construction, alteration, installation or improvements to a building or parcel exceed \$100,000.00, and that the construction, alteration, installation or improvements to a building or parcel have caused an increase in the assessed value of such building or parcel. Such corporations must also hire at least two full time or full time equivalent employees within two years of the certification date.
7. All businesses seeking certification will be required to submit proof of ownership in any company for which they are seeking benefits.
8. All businesses will be reviewed two years after the certification date to determine if projected employment and investment levels have been met. Failure to meet employment or investment projections may result in de-certification.
9. Failure to comply with any of the criteria as outlined above shall result in de-certification.

**Please return completed applications to:
The Empire Zone Program
City Hall – 1 Monument Square
Troy, New York 12180**